

***Selected Articles
From US and UK
Papers and Journals***

美英报刊选读

岳守国 主编



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美英报刊选读

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前 言

报刊英语清新活泼、言简意赅，时代感与感染力俱强。随着科技的飞速发展和社会的进步，新词语不断涌现，而新的语言形式最早、最大、最有传播力的载体当属报刊了。丰富多彩和实用是报刊英语的特色。语言学习是一个习得过程，阅读英语报刊有助于扩大词汇量并增强语感，是把握英语发展动向的有效途径。通过阅读英语报刊，学习者可以了解美英社会和世界的现状，观察当今世界政治、经济、军事、科学、文化以及社会生活的新事物和动态。各大学外语专业日趋注重英语报刊课程的开设，开启了一扇洞察和欣赏外界的窗口。英语报刊选读进入课堂，必将丰富教学资源，拓宽学习和运用英语的渠道，并在学生的学习和生活之间架起一座桥梁。

开设报刊选读课程可以改变现有英语教材内容陈旧、单一的局面，有助于摆脱语言僵化的困境。报刊文章的题材广泛，可以满足多样化的阅读需求和兴趣爱好，因而，可以较大程度地激发学生的学习兴趣。英语报刊教学在教室和世界之间搭建桥梁，帮助学生认识和了解大千世界。相比其他英语教材，英语报刊为教学提供更多真实、地道的英语资源。充分利用这些资源不仅能拓展学生的知识面，调动他们学习英语的兴趣和热情，也有利于培养学生综合运用英语的能力。在信息化时代，学会快速获得信息是至关重要的。题材不同的阅读材料，将大大提高学习者获得信息的速度。阅读英语报刊可以了解天下大事，接触到大量鲜活的语言。英语报刊是蕴藏量巨大的英语语言资料库，语言内容更新快，现实感强。本教材不仅注重英语报刊文章的摘录，也注重对文章的背景知识以及难点的系统注释与讲解。我们清楚，与其他英语材料相比，报刊英语具有自己突出、鲜明的特色，在遣词造句、文章类型和结构、写作特点、词

汇等方面有着显而易见的差异。本教材不是从英语报刊上简单节选文章加以注释,让学生自己去阅读,而是针对报刊英语的难点和疑点,结合背景知识加以注解和分析,探讨中外文化差异特点,从而提高对英语报刊的理解力。

现代学习理论认为,认知结构中能否形成相互联系的概念网络是鉴别知识质量的重要标志之一。本书各单元以不同题材的文章为依据,兼顾地域范围与报刊种类的多样性,总体思路瞄准大学生的兴趣所在。坦率地说,对报刊英语,尤其是新闻英语的掌握及兴趣的提升绝非一日之功,所以首先选择题材轻松有趣的文章,培养阅读英语新闻的良好习惯,再逐渐灌输各种背景知识。本教材不再单从编者角度选择文章,而是多方面了解学生的需求以及目前的知识和认知水平,以学生为本,以掌握报刊英语的精髓为目的。

本书所选篇目大多为 2010 年以来的美英报刊文章,内容涵盖美英社会的若干方面,地理范围覆盖广阔。读报知识涉及美英文化的若干方面,还有新闻语言的特点,修辞方法和背景知识介绍,力争在最大限度上满足高校英语教学的要求。我们的目的是通过开设本课程,把学习者引导到一个从未系统涉猎过的英语语言及文化的层面,让学生关注英语报刊,并把浏览英语报刊变成学习知识、培养语言运用技能和了解英语国家文化的一个平台。考虑到报刊课时的有限性,又顾及到大学生社会实践所占学习时间比例的明显增加,书中所选文章的篇幅大多在 1000~1700 个单词,这样便于在有限的时间内完成教学任务。语言难度趋向中等,弃选过于简单或高难的文章;尽量弃选容易过时的文章,而选用有时代穿透力的文章。美英报刊文章合编成一册书,共 8 个单元,16 篇课文,每篇课文需 2 学时,全书需要 32 学时,教学时段设计为一个学期。此外,书的结尾附有若干与阅读英语报刊和美英文化有关的信息和知识,可供学习者查阅或浏览。承蒙悦纳本书,编者倍感欣慰。

岳守国
2011 年 2 月



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Unit



Text A

Guidance for Reading

气候作为人类赖以生存的自然环境的一个重要组成部分，它的任何变化都会对自然生态系统以及社会经济系统产生影响。人类社会系统对气候变化的敏感性和脆弱性，随其地理位置、时间、社会经济发展水平和环境条件的变化而变化。气候变化给人类带来的挑战不容回避。在未来付出更大代价和长远利益之间，人类必须作出选择。在选择时要牢记科学家的警告：真正的风险在于气候变化所造成的影响是不可逆的。

Climate Change May Be Real, but It's Still Not Easy Being Green

How do we convince our inner caveman to be greener?

We ask some eminent social scientists what is holding us back.

By Alice Fishburn

The road to climate hell is paved with our good intentions. Politicians may tackle polluters while scientists do battle with carbon emissions. But the most *pervasive* problem is less *tangible*: our own behaviour. We get distracted before we can turn down the heating. We break our promise not to fly after hearing about a neighbour's *jaunt* to India. Ultimately, we can't be bothered to change our attitude. Fortunately for the planet, social science and behavioural economics may be able to do that for us.

Despite *mournful* polar bears and charts showing carbon emissions soaring, most people find it hard to believe that global warming will affect them personally. Recent polls by the Pew Research Centre¹ in Washington D.C., found that 75-80 percent of participants regarded climate change as an important issue. But respondents ranked it last on a list of priorities.

This *disparity* largely stems from a feeling of powerlessness. "When we can't actually remove the source of our fear, we tend to adapt psychologically by adopting a range of defence mechanisms," says Tom Crompton, change strategist for the environmental organisation WWF². "These may range from blaming others to manifesting themselves as *apathy*."

Part of the fault lies with our inner caveman. Evolution has programmed humans to pay most attention to issues that will have an immediate impact. Our *ancestors* *fretted* about club-swinging neighbours and the *predator* at the watering hole. Any carbon emissions from the cave didn't make the grade then and still don't today. "We worry most about now because if we don't survive for the next minute, well, we're not going to be around in ten years' time," says Professor Elke Weber of the Centre for Research on Environmental Decisions at Columbia University in New York.

If the Thames were *lapping* around Big Ben³, Londoners would face up to the



problem of emissions pretty quickly. But in practice, our brain discounts the risks—and benefits—associated with issues that lie some way ahead.

Matthew Rushworth, of the department of experimental psychology at the University of Oxford, sees this in his lab every day. “One of the ways in which all agents seem to make decisions is that they assign a lower weighting to outcomes that are going to be further away in the future,” he says. “This is a very sensible way for an animal to make decisions in the wild and would have been very helpful for humans for many millennia.”

Not any longer. By the time we wake up to the threat posed by climate change, it could well be too late. And if we’re not going to make rational decisions about the future, others may have to help us to do so.

Few political libraries are without a copy of *Nudge: Improving Decisions About Health, Wealth and Happiness*⁴, by Richard Thaler and Cass Sunstein. They argue that governments should nudge us into making better decisions—such as saving more in our pension plans—by changing the default options. Professor Weber believes that environmental policy can make use of similar tactics. If, for example, building codes included green construction guidelines, most developers would be too lazy to challenge them.

Defaults are certainly part of the solution. But social scientists are most concerned about crafting messages that exploit our group mentality. “We need to understand what motivates people, what it is that allows them to make change,” says Professor Neil Adger, of the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research in Norwich. “It is actually about what their peers think of them, what their social norms are, what is seen as desirable in society.” In other words, our inner caveman is continually looking over his shoulder to see what the rest of the tribes are up to.

The *lackadaisical* attitude we have to climate change as individuals can be altered by counting us in—and measuring us against—our peer group. “Social norms are primitive and elemental,” says Dr. Robert Cialdini, author of *Influence: The Psychology of Persuasion*⁵. “Birds flock together, fish school together, cattle herd together.⁶ ...just perceiving norms is enough to cause people to deflect their behavior in the direction of the crowd.”

These norms can take us beyond good intentions. Cialdini conducted a study in San Diego in which coat hangers bearing messages about saving energy were hung on people’s doors. Some of the messages mentioned the environment, some

financial savings, others social responsibility. But it was the ones that mentioned the actions of neighbours that drove down power use.

Other studies show that simply providing the facility for people to compare their energy use with the local average is enough to cause them to modify their behaviour. The Conservatives plan to adopt this strategy by making utility companies print the average local electricity and gas usage on people's bills.

Social science can also teach politicians how to avoid our collective capacity for self-destructive behaviour. Environmental campaigns that tell us how many people drive SUVs *unwittingly* imply that this behaviour is widespread and thus permissible. Cialdini recommends some careful framing of the message. "Instead of normalising the undesirable behaviour, the message needs to *marginalise* it. Make it the province of the outlier, for example, (by stating that) if even one person buys yet another SUV, it reduces our ability to be energy-independent."

Psychologists have other lessons for Westminster. Recent government *adverts* to do with climate change showed small children listening to an *apocalyptic* bedtime story, but the fear factor doesn't actually work. Dr. Adam Corner, a psychologist at the University of Cardiff, explains that fear can *trigger* a number of reactions, including burying your head in the sand. "In the UK, people don't feel that climate change is personally relevant to them at the moment, so trying to scare them into action is not necessarily a good idea," he says.

Even seemingly sensible appeals to our wallets can be problematic. Tom Crompton of WWF stresses that focusing on the possible money-saving benefits of greener behaviour does nothing to enhance our environmental sensibilities. "If we urge people to make changes by completely neglecting the environmental case and focusing on the financial incentive, they will come to see themselves as the type of people who do things to save money," he says.

Tapping into how we already see ourselves is crucial. The most successful environmental strategy will marry the green message to our own sense of identity. Take your average trade union member: chances are they will be politically motivated and be used to collective action—much like Erica Gregory. A retired member of the Public and Commercial Services Union⁷, she is setting up one of 1,100 action groups *under the aegis of* Climate Solidarity⁸, a two-year environmental campaign aimed at trade unionists.

Erica is proof that a great-grandmother can help to lead the revolution if you get

the psychology right—in this case, by matching her enthusiasm for the environment with a fondness for organising groups. “I think it’s a terrific idea,” she says of the campaign. “The union backing it makes members think there must be something in it.” She is expecting up to 20 people at the first meeting she has called, at her local pub in the Cornish village of Polperro.

Nick Perks, project director for Climate Solidarity, believes this sort of activity is where the future of environmental action lies. “Using existing civil society structures or networks is a more effective way of creating change... and obviously trade unions are one of the biggest civil society networks in the UK,” he says.

The Love Food Hate Waste⁹ campaign entered into a collaboration last year with another such network—the Women’s Institute. Londoner Rachel Taylor joined the campaign with the aim of making new friends. A year on, the meetings have made lasting changes to what she bins in her kitchen. “It’s always more of an incentive if you’re doing it with other people,” she says. “It motivates you more if you know that you’ve got to (provide) feedback to a group.”

The power of such simple psychology in fighting climate change is attracting attention across the political establishment. In the US, the House of Representatives Science Committee¹⁰ has approved a bill *allocating* \$10 million a year to studying energy-related behaviour. In the UK, new studies are in development and social scientists are regularly spotted in Whitehall. By putting our inner caveman on the couch, psychologists are offering fresh hope that he might go green after all. (1,442 words)

From *The Times*, December 3, 2009

New Words

advert /'ædvə:t/ *n.* (英口) 广告 (advertisement 的缩略)

ancestor /'ænsɛstə/ *n.* someone from whom you are descended (but usually more remote than a grandparent) 祖宗; 祖先

allocate /'æləkeɪt/ *vt.* distribute according to a plan or set apart for a special purpose 分配; 分派

apathy /'æpəθi/ *n.* an absence of emotion or enthusiasm 冷淡; 漠然; 无感情

apocalyptic /ə.pə'kæ'liptik/ *adj.* connected with the final destruction and end of the world, or with any great destruction 预示世界末日(恐怖景象)的; 预示大灾变的; 可怕的

disparity /di'spærəti/ *n.* inequality or difference in some respect 不同; 不等; 悬殊; 不一致

eminent /'eminənt/ *adj.* (used of persons) standing above others in character or attainment or reputation 卓越的; 显赫的; 突出的

fret /fret/ *v.* worry unnecessarily or excessively (使)烦恼; (使)烦躁; 为……发愁

lackadaisical /lækə'deizikəl/ *adj.* lacking spirit or liveliness 懒洋洋的; 没精打采的; 懒散的

lap /ləp/ *vt.* wash or flow against (波浪)拍打; 舐

jaunt /dʒɔ:nt/ *n.* a journey taken for pleasure 短途游览

marginalise /'mɑ:dʒinəlaiz/ *vt.* to make a person or a group of people unimportant and powerless in an unfair way 排斥; 被视为无关紧要; 让……靠边站使之受冷落

mournful /'mɔ:nfl/ *adj.* very sad 悲伤的; 悲痛的

pervasive /pə'veisiv/ *adj.* existing everywhere 弥漫的; 遍布的; 充满的

predator /'predətə/ *n.* an animal that kills and eats other animals 食肉动物; 掠夺者

tangible /'tændʒəbl/ *adj.* clear enough or definite enough to be easily seen or noticed 可触知的; 有形的; 明确的

trigger /'trigə/ *vt.* to make something happen very quickly, especially a series of events 触发; 引发; 引起

under the aegis of with the protection or support of a person or organization 在……的保护或支持之下

unwittingly /ʌn'witiŋli/ *adv.* without being aware of what you are doing or the situation that you are involved in 无意地; 不知不觉地; 不知情地

Notes

1. **the Pew Research Centre**—It is a nonpartisan “fact tank” that provides information on the issues, attitudes and trends shaping America and the world. It does so by conducting public opinion polling and social science research; by reporting news and analyzing news coverage; and by holding forums and briefings. It does not take positions on policy issues.
2. **WWF**—World Wildlife Fund. Since it was founded in 1961, WWF has become

one of the world's largest and most effective independent organizations dedicated to the conservation of nature. It has reached this status through a constant record of conservation achievements. WWF now operates in around 100 countries, supported by nearly five million people worldwide. Its initials and famous Panda logo have become a powerful rallying point for everyone who cares about the future of the planet and wants to help shape it in a positive way.

3. **Big Ben**—The hour bell of the Great Clock of Westminster—known worldwide as “Big Ben”. The most famous bell ever cast in Britain. Big Ben was cast on Saturday 10th April 1858. Big Ben remains the largest bell ever cast at Whitechapel. Visitors to the foundry pass through a full size profile of the bell that frames the main entrance as they enter the building. The original moulding gauge employed to form the mould used to cast Big Ben hangs on the end wall of the foundry above the furnaces to this very day.
4. ***Nudge: Improving Decisions About Health, Wealth and Happiness***—中文译名《推敲：改进有关健康、财富和幸福的决定》，Richard H. Thaler and Cass R. Sunstein 著。
5. ***Influence: The Psychology of Persuasion***—中文译名《影响力》。在这本书中，著名的心理学家罗伯特·西奥迪尼博士为我们解释了为什么有些人极具说服力，而我们总是容易上当受骗。隐藏在顺从他人行为背后的六大心理秘籍，正是这一切的根源。那些劝说高手们总是熟练地运用它们，让我们就范。
6. **Birds flock together, fish school together, cattle herd together.**—Proverb: Birds of a feather flock together. People of the same sort are found together. Birds flock together, fish school together, cattle herd together 为前面谚语的仿写，这一组表达结构相同，意义相似，活泼俏皮。
7. **Public and Commercial Services Union**—The Public and Commercial Services Union (PCSU) is the sixth largest trade union in the United Kingdom. Most of its members work in government departments and other public bodies although some work for private companies.
8. **Climate Solidarity**—It is a trade union response to climate change. It's about learning, working and acting together to help make the kind of society we want to live in. Climate Solidarity is a two-year campaign to mobilise trade union members to take action together on climate change. This is an unusual campaign, as the initial focus is on trade union members getting together in small Action



Groups to make practical changes in their own lives and communities. For some this will be an end in itself, for others it will be a springboard to workplace or political action.

9. **Love Food Hate Waste**—It is an online campaign to promote new food habits. Love Food Hate Waste is asking the nation to think positively about food and get into new habits following the theme of loving food and wasting less!
10. **the House of Representatives Science Committee**—The Members of the House Committee on Science and Technology are tenured, knowledgeable and committed to careful oversight of the Committee's far-reaching jurisdiction. Over the years, the Committee's jurisdiction grew to include almost all non-defense federal scientific research and development.

❖ **The Times**—《泰晤士报》是英国的一份综合性日报，是对全世界政治、经济、文化发挥着巨大影响的报纸。长期以来，它一直被认为是英国的第一主流大报，被誉为“英国社会的忠实记录者”，在英国国内政治和国际关系问题上扮演了重要角色。由该报的英文名称 The Times 直译过来的中文应该是《时报》。然而，它的译名却变成与读音相近、但毫无关联的泰晤士河(River Thames)一样。由于约定俗成的关系，错译保留至今。现今世界各地有许多名为 Times 的报章，如《纽约时报》(The New York Times)。为了区分，《泰晤士报》有时被称为《伦敦时报》(The London Times)，是世界上第一份以 Times 命名的报纸。

Questions

1. What does “inner caveman” refer to?
2. What is holding us back in fighting climate change according to some social scientists?
3. What accelerates the causes of global warming?
4. What is the most successful environmental strategy according to the author?
5. What do you think we should do to protect the Earth?

Discussion

1. Global climate change and our life.
2. List some effective ways to protect the greening around us.

Text B

Guidance for Reading

光污染泛指影响自然环境，对人类正常生活、工作、休息和娱乐带来不利影响，损害人们观察物体的能力，引起人体不舒适感和损害人体健康的各种光。大城市普遍地过多使用灯光，使天空太亮，看不见星星。夜幕降临后，商场、酒店上的广告灯、霓虹灯闪烁夺目，令人眼花缭乱。有些强光束甚至直冲云霄，使得夜晚如同白昼一样，即所谓的人工白昼。在这样的“不夜城”里，人们难以入睡，人体正常的生物钟被扰乱，导致白天工作效率低下。噪光污染日益加剧，让人们越来越意识到环境对人类生存的重要性。

Light Pollution: Night Skies, Dark No More

The ecological risks and health effects of a bright night are becoming more apparent.


By Ben Harder

The night is not what it was. Once, the Earth was cast perpetually half in shadow. Man and beast slept beneath *inky* skies, dotted with glittering stars. Then came fire, the candle, and the light bulb, gradually drawing back the curtain of darkness and giving us unprecedented control over our lives.

But a brighter world, it is becoming increasingly clear, has its drawbacks. A study released last month finding that breast cancer is nearly twice as common in brightly lit communities as in dark ones only added to a growing body of evidence that artificial light threatens not just stargazing but also public health, wildlife, and possibly even safety¹. Those findings are all the more troubling considering that an estimated 30 percent of outdoor lighting—plus even some indoor lighting—is

wasted. Ill-conceived, ineffective, and inefficient lighting costs the nation about \$10.4 billion a year, according to Bob Gent of the International Dark-Sky Association², a nonprofit that aims to *curtail* light pollution, and it generates 38 million tons of carbon dioxide a year.

Motivated by such trends, more than two dozen cities worldwide will go dim on March 29 in an hour-long demonstration. At 8 p.m. local time, Atlanta's and Chicago's tallest towers, the Phoenix Suns³' arena, and San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge⁴ will join many other sites in turning off their lights. According to the World Wildlife Fund, which is organizing the event, an estimated 2.2 million Australians switched off their lights or took other action during "Earth Hour" last year in Sydney, briefly reducing that city's energy use by more than 10 percent.

10  A number of groups are trying to measure light pollution and assess its *detrimental* effects on the environment in the hope that people will reduce their own contribution to the problem. Last week, as part of an annual program called GLOBE at Night⁵, thousands of students and amateur scientists stared up at the constellation Orion from locations across the country and reported how many of its stars they could see. No data are yet available, but in dark, rural areas, says Gent, about 2,000 stars are typically visible at night, compared with "maybe five" in a bright city square—and about 5,000 in centuries past. "One of the goals," says Steve Pompea of the National Optical Astronomy Observatory⁶ in Tucson, Ariz., "is to identify urban oases—places in our cities that are dark enough to see the sky." People who are working while others are stargazing may face the greatest risks. *Hormonal* disturbances triggered by nighttime exposure to white or bluish light can disrupt circadian rhythms and fuel the growth of *tumors*, experiments show. Two decades of research indicate that women who work night shifts have unusually high rates of breast cancer, and some data suggest a parallel effect on male workers' prostate cancer rates. Last December, a unit of the World Health Organization deemed shift work a probable human *carcinogen*.

Yet light and cancer may be even more fundamentally linked. In last month's study, a team that included Richard Stevens, the University of Connecticut⁷ Health Center *epidemiologist* who first proposed the connection, compared satellite images of Israel at night with maps showing where cancers are most common. Its analysis suggests that 73 percent more breast cancers occur in the country's brightest communities than in its darkest. Beaming up. Light beamed into the sky is